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Tuesday, May 17, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

EMILIA CLARKE'S GOT TO BE REAL

The actress is proud of her latest 'Game of Thrones' moment. 14

Amtrak engineer distracted before crash. 6

Macnow: It's time to be a Sixers fan again. 24

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SAY IT AIN'T SO, FATTAH

Longtime Philly congressman goes on trial, accused of racketeering. 2

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

SINGER SINEAD O'CONNOR SAFELY LOCATED IN CHICAGO SUBURB

Police said Irish pop star Sinead O'Connor was found safe Monday, hours after authorities reported her missing in a Chicago suburb, citing a concerned caller who told them the singer apparently had failed to return from a bicycle ride. O'Connor topped the music charts around the world 25 years ago with a cover of Prince's song "Nothing Compares 2 U." O'Connor once famously tore up a picture of Pope John Paul II on the "Saturday Night Live" television show, declaring "Fight the real enemy!" Comedian Arsenio Hall filed a defamation lawsuit May 6 against O'Connor, who accused him of supplying drugs to music legend Prince, whose death April 21 has prompted speculation about an overdose.

REUTERS

COAST GUARD RESUMES PROBE OF EL FARO SHIP SINKING

2 Coast Guard investigators resumed a probe of last year's deadly sinking of the El Faro off the Bahamas, beginning two weeks of hearings to examine the cargo ship's operations, weather forecasts and regulatory oversight. Captain Eric Bryson, who helped launch the El Faro on its final voyage, told the Coast Guard's Marine Board of Investigation panel that the ship's captain had said he planned to "go out and shoot under" a storm brewing in the Caribbean. Bryson is among some two dozen experts set to testify during a second round of hearings on the worst cargo shipping disaster involving a U.S.-flagged vessel in more than three decades. REUTERS

TOP COURT REJECTS EXXON APPEAL IN CONTAMINATION CASE

3 The Supreme Court on Monday rejected Exxon Mobil Corp.'s appeal of a $236 million judgment against the oil company in a case brought by the state of New Hampshire over groundwater contamination linked to a gasoline additive. The justices left in place the New Hampshire Supreme Court's 2015 ruling upholding the judgment by a jury that in 2013 spurned Exxon's claims that the contamination linked to its fuel additive was not its fault but rather the fault of the local gas stations and storage facilities that spilled it. Exxon argued in its appeal that its due-process rights were violated because New Hampshire had not proved the company's liability for the alleged pollution at each individual site. REUTERS

Prosecutor calls Chaka Fattah a thief in racketeering trial

The trial began Monday for the longtime congressman and associates accused of lying to cover up bribes and misappropriating campaign funds.

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Rep. Chaka Fattah CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Federal prosecutors painted a picture of a comfortable, corrupt career politician who used lies and fraud to cover his tracks in transferring money and paying down his political debt, as Day 1 of the corruption trial of U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah opened Monday in Center City.

Grinning and even chuckling at times, Fattah, an 11-term member of Congress, appeared confident in court as prosecutors laid out the charges against him.

"Racketeering, wire fraud, honest services fraud, mail fraud, falsification of records, bribery, bank fraud, money laundering, conspiracy, theft … he took from taxpayers, he even stole from his own campaign," Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Gray said before a jury split evenly between men and women.

Last month, Fattah was ousted in the Democratic primary for Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District seat by State Rep. Dwight Evans.

Fattah and four other co-conspirators are on trial for crimes under the RICO Act, all allegedly linked to misappropriating hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal, charitable and campaign funds and advancing Fattah's personal and political interests and those of his friends and allies.

Herbert Vederman, a longtime friend and political consultant, is accused of writing generous checks to Fattah's adult children, Fran and Chaka "Chip" Jr., who were purportedly in need of financial help over the years. In exchange, Fattah sought for Vederman to gain an ambassadorship to the United States Trade Commission and wrote letters to President Barack Obama on his behalf.

"He took from taxpayers, he even stole from his own campaign."

Gray

According to the indictment, Fattah also accepted an $18,000 bribe from Vederman, which he disguised as the sale of his wife's Porsche. Prosecutors said that the car never left the Fattah's Philadelphia garage — except when they were driving it.

"These are crimes of spending illegal money. The defendants left a trail of false documents," Gray said.

"But for this investigation, Fattah would have cheated his way out of his own political debt. That's fraud. That's flat-out fraud," he said.

Robert Brand, the founder of a Philadelphia-based consulting firm and husband of a former Fattah staffer, allegedly executed fake contracts to conceal the transfer of nearly a million dollars of federal grant monies to repay an illegal $1 million loan made to Fattah during his failed mayoral bid in 2007.

Karen Nicholas, a former Fattah congressional aide and CEO of a nonprofit founded by Fattah, is on trial for allegedly misusing $50,000 in federal grants intended for a conference on education that never took place. Instead, prosecutors claim she wrote checks to herself.

Bonnie Bowser was chief of staff to Fattah's congressional office in Philadelphia and treasurer of the Fattah for Mayor and Fattah for Congress campaign organizations. The indictment alleges Bowser had power of attorney over Fattah's personal and campaign financial transactions and was involved in a scheme to violate the local campaign finance laws during Fattah's 2007 race for mayor.

Opening statements Monday were delivered before a packed courtroom in what is predicted to be one of the most closely watched cases in recent Philadelphia history. The trial is expected to last about eight weeks.

Two of Fattah's formers aides and confidants — Thomas Lindenfeld and Gregory Naylor — have already pleaded guilty to similar charges and are expected to testify.

"The government's case rests on the words of two convicted felons," said Mark Lee, one of two defense attorneys for Fattah. "His lifestyle is not on trial here. Mrs. Fattah's choice of automobile is not on trial.

"Fattah never directed anyone to take out any illegal loan. Anyone who says that during this trial has something to gain for saying so. Not a dime of federal money was ever spent on this so-called scheme. Fattah's son had problems in school and a gambling problem. But it had nothing to do with taking campaign funds to pay tuition," said Lee.

Testimony resumes Tuesday.

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Obama honors

Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor presented to Philly's Sgt. Robert F. Wilson III's grandmother by the president.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Sgt. Robert F. Wilson III PROVIDED

Sgt. Robert F. Wilson III, the Philly cop slain during an attempted robbery last year, was awarded the nation's highest law enforcement medal by President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony Monday.

"We honor those who didn't come home, including one here that we honor posthumously today, Sergeant Robert Wilson III," Obama said in presenting the national Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to Wilson and 12 others.

The president became visibly emotional recounting the circumstances of Wilson's murder, allegedly at the hands of two would-be armed robbers who stormed into a GameStop while Wilson was inside, on duty and in uniform.

"He gave his life when two men opened fire at a video game store where Sergeant Wilson was buying his son a birthday present," Obama said, voice choked with emotion.

"To his family, who's here, his grandmother Constance, his brother and sister, please know how deeply sorry we are for your loss, and how grateful we are for Sergeant Wilson's service," Obama said.

Constance Wilson, who wore a Jehovah's Witness button on her lapel, accepted the medal from the president, who bowed his head and whispered to her as he presented the award.

Wilson, 30, a 22nd

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fallen officer

Constance Wilson receives her grandson's award from Obama. PROVIDED

District officer, was slain on March 5, 2015, inside a GameStop at 21st and Lehigh when two armed men entered intending to rob the store, not knowing a uniformed police officer was inside.

Wilson reportedly moved toward the two suspects, brothers Carlton Hipps and Ramone Williams, drawing their attention away from customers and employees, and told them to stand down, before both opened fire, shooting Wilson from both sides and striking him in the head.

"I've been in policing for 46 years, I have never witnessed an act of bravery like what I saw that day," former Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said at Wilson's funeral, describing surveillance video of the shoot-out.

Williams and Hipps allegedly fled the store and fired at Wilson's partner Damien Stevenson, who was in a car outside.

Stevenson shot Hipps in the leg and arrested him, according to police. Williams fled back into the GameStop and feigned that he was a customer, but was arrested after being identified by other customers as one of the shooters.

Some 50 shots were fired in the two gun fights, which lasted 30 to 40 seconds, police said.

Hipps and Williams are facing murder charges.

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NTSB finds engineer distracted by radio traffic in deadly 2015 Amtrak crash in Philly: Source

The train CHARLES MOSTOLLER

The National Transportation Safety Board has concluded that the engineer of an Amtrak passenger train that crashed in Philadelphia in 2015 was distracted by radio traffic, NBC News reported on Monday, citing an unnamed source.

The derailment on May 12, 2015, killed eight people and injured more than 200.

The engineer, Brandon Bostian, who suffered a concussion in the crash, told investigators he had no memory of what occurred after the train pulled out of the North Philadelphia station, just before the crash.

A report from CNN added that the NTSB concluded Bostian was distracted by conversation between dispatchers and other trains about other trains being hit by projectiles. During the 11-minute ride from the Philadelphia train station to the site of the crash, the engineer was reportedly involved in listening and taking part in those conversations.

An announcement of the NTSB findings is scheduled for Tuesday, and, according to CNN, investigators will say there is "good circumstantial evidence to make the case that the radio chatter is what distracted Bostian when he approached a 50 mph curve at 106 mph."

They are also reportedly expected to recommend continuing retraining for train engineers to help them manage all the tasks that are involved when at the controls. METRO/REUTERS

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Police: Man killed girlfriend by throwing gasoline as she smoked

Lincoln Motel GOOGLE MAPS

Police have charged a man in connection with his girlfriend's death after authorities alleged that he dumped gasoline on her as she was smoking a cigarette in a Bensalem motel.

Kevin Smalls, 46, of Philadelphia, was taken into custody by authorities on Sunday after officials determined that a fatal 2:30 a.m. fire at the Lincoln Motel was the result of a domestic dispute between Smalls and his girlfriend Melissa Bacon-Smith, 6ABC reported. Bacon-Smith was killed in the fire.

"I don't know what sparked it. He claimed she laughed at him earlier in the night, but that's his side of the story," Bensalem police Lt. Robert Bugsch was quoted by 6ABC.

Authorities have obtained video taken before 1:30 a.m. on Sunday that allegedly shows Small at a nearby gas station filling a coffee cup with gasoline, NBC10 reported. He then returned to the motel room where his girlfriend was waiting.

Police alleged that Smalls then flung the gasoline from the cup at Bacon-Smith as she was smoking, 6ABC stated.

A Lincoln Motel desk clerk entered their room after receiving a report that a person was on fire, NBC10 added. By the time she opened the door, the fire had spread to the curtains and in front of the TV.

Smalls had already left the scene, according to 6ABC, which interviewed Bugsch who said, "We believe [Bacon-Smith] reached out to him and yelled his name, and he left her in there to die."

Firefighters had the blaze under control by 3 a.m. after rescuing at least three people from the second floor, 6ABC added.

Bensalem Township Police later found Smalls walking nearby with visible burns on his hands and smelling like gasoline, NBC10 added. He was treated at an area hospital.

Now in custody, Smalls was charged with criminal homicide, arson and other related offenses, according to reports. JASON NUCKOLLS

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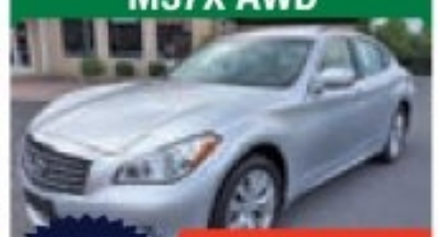
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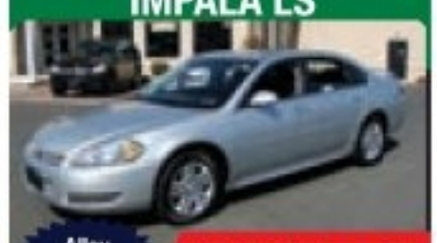
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Trump says unlikely to have good relationship with UK's Cameron

Cameron criticised Trump in the British parliament over his call for the ban on Muslims.

Donald Trump said he was unlikely to have a good relationship with David Cameron because the British prime minister cast the U.S. presidential candidate as "divisive, stupid and wrong" for proposing a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States.

"It looks like we're not going to have a very good relationship, who knows?" Trump told Britain's ITV television station in an interview aired on Monday when asked how ties would fare if he won the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 8.

"Well number one, I'm not stupid, OK. I can tell you that right now. Just the opposite. Number Two, in terms of divisive: I don't think I'm a divisive person. I'm a unifier, unlike our president right now," Trump said, referring to Barack Obama.

Cameron's spokesman said the prime minister stood by his original comments.

The United States is Britain's closest ally. U.S. companies are the biggest foreign direct investors in Britain and the so-called special relationship with Washington has been the cornerstone of British diplomacy since World War II.

Trump's often controversial comments on everything from Muslims and women to the future of NATO and relations with Russia have drawn criticism from Berlin, Paris and other European capitals.

But neither Germany's Angela Merkel nor France's Francois Hollande have gone as far as Cameron in chiding Trump who, if he wins in November, would be in charge of the world's most powerful nation and largest economy from Jan. 20 next year.

"The PM has made his views on Donald Trump's comments very clear. He disagrees with them," the spokesman said. "He continues to believe that preventing Muslims from entering the U.S. is divisive, stupid and wrong. He stands by his comments."

The spokesman refused to answer questions on who Cameron would like to see win in November but said there was no telephone call or meeting planned with Trump, adding: "If one is proposed we will consider it." REUTERS

David Cameron GETTY IMAGES

"Cameron will work with whoever is elected U.S. president and is committed to maintaining the special relationship."

The prime minister's spokesman

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Pro-birth control coverage demonstrators outside Supreme Court. GETTY IMAGES

Supreme Court tosses rulings on contraception

With four conservative justices and four liberals, the court did not rule on the merits of the legal challenge by nonprofit Christian employers who objected to the 2010 health-care law's requirement that they provide female workers insurance for contraceptives.

The ideologically deadlocked Supreme Court on Monday failed to resolve a major case involving the Obamacare law's mandatory birth control coverage, telling lower courts to reconsider the matter after tossing out their rulings favoring President Barack Obama.

The court's action avoided a possible 4-4 split that would have affirmed the lower court rulings. The justices, shorthanded following February's death of conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, threw out seven rulings by federal appeals courts around the country that had backed the Obama administration.

The justices handed at least a short-term victory to the nonprofit employers, primarily Roman Catholic organizations.

The decision suggested a possible compromise for the lower courts that would allow women to get contraception coverage without violating the religious rights of employers, by having the government arrange coverage directly with health insurers rather than requiring employers to sign off on it.

"The court expresses no view on the merits of the cases. In particular, the court does not decide whether petitioners' religious exercise has been substantially burdened," the unsigned ruling stated.

In a separate order, the court also sent six other pending cases on the same issue back to lower courts, including two in which the religious employers prevailed.

Among the employers challenging the contraception mandate were the Roman Catholic archdioceses of Washington and Pittsburgh, the Little Sisters of the Poor order of nuns and Christian colleges.

"We are pleased that the court confirms that there is a path forward that recognizes our religious liberty, yet we also recognize that this struggle will continue," said Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington. REUTERS

BRIEF

Court orders Mississippi town to desegregate schools after 50-year fight

A federal court has ordered a Mississippi town to consolidate its junior high and high schools in order to fully desegregate its school system after a 50-year battle the town has waged with the Department of Justice, agency officials said Monday.

Black students and white students in Cleveland, Mississippi, are largely separated into two high schools, one mostly white and one mostly black, according to the announcement.

The situation is similar with the town's middle school and junior high — one has mostly black students, and the other is historically white, officials said.

As a result of the order, handed down late Friday by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, the Cleveland School District will combine the two high schools, as well as join the junior high and middle school into one, desegregating the secondary schools for the first time in the district's 100-year history.

The court rejected two alternative plans posed by the district, calling them unconstitutional and saying that the dual system the district has been running has failed to achieve the highest possible degree of desegregation required by law.

"Six decades after the Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education declared that 'separate but equal has no place' in public schools, this decision serves as a reminder to districts that delaying desegregation obligations is both unacceptable and unconstitutional," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

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Striking Verizon workers GETTY IMAGES

Verizon and striking unions set talks after meeting with US official

Verizon Communications and representatives from two striking unions will return to the negotiating table on Tuesday after a weekend meeting with U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez.

About 40,000 network technicians and customer service representatives in the company's Fios Internet, telephone and television services unit walked off the job in mid-April in the largest U.S. strike in recent years.

The two side have remained far apart on issues related to healthcare coverage, pensions and the off-shoring of call-center jobs.

Verizon Chief Executive Officer Lowell McAdam and union officials from the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers met with Perez on Sunday at his request.

"The best way to resolve this labor dispute is at the bargaining table, and I am heartened by the parties' mutual commitment to get back to immediate discussions and work toward a new contract," Perez said in a statement issued Sunday night. REUTERS

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Emilia Clarke is proud of her naked fire-walk

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"Game of Thrones" star Emilia Clarke had one of the more attention-grabbing scenes in the show's new season Sunday night when she emerged from a burning Dothraki temple completely untouched by the flames, with her clothes burned off. It was a triumphant moment for the character, and Clarke wants everyone to know that it was all her. "I'd like to remind people the last time I took my clothes off was Season 3," Clarke told Entertainment Weekly. "That was a while ago. It's now Season 6. But this is all me, all proud, all strong. I'm just feeling genuinely happy I said 'Yes.' That ain't no body double." And at least this time, unlike her fire walk from the end of Season 1, she got to do it on a closed set indoors. So there's that. "Taking off my clothes is not the easiest thing, but with the magic of the effects, I don't have to do a Season 1 and go on a cliff and do it," she said. "I'm in control of it."

Sharon sends Ozzy to sex rehab

Sure, Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne played nice for the cameras in their first public appearance since his cheating scandal made news last week, but that doesn't mean all is well and good in the house that Black Sabbath built. In fact, Sharon is reportedly demanding that Ozzy check himself into the same fancy sex addiction rehab facility that Tiger Woods patronized. "It's true Sharon has spoken to a divorce lawyer, and she is still mad as hell," a source tells the Sunday Express. "But she believes they can eventually recover from this if he is prepared to get proper help." And I guess the proper help is at the Pine Grove facility in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Man, Mississippi this time of year? Definitely sounds like a punishment.

the word

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Beyonce facing sweatshop controversy

Come on, Ivy Park workers, now let's get in formation. Or that's what I assume they say at the Sri Lankan factory where Beyonce's chic new activewear line is reportedly put together by underpaid workers pulling 60-plus hour weeks, according to the Sun. The newspaper reports that seamstresses at the MAS Holdings factory — which also assembles clothing for Top Shop — make just $6 a day for their efforts. "When they talk about women and empowerment, this is just for the foreigners," one worker says. "They want the foreigners to think everything is OK." That's cold, Bey.

Shocker: Angelina Jolie no fan of Donald Trump

Angelina Jolie was in London on Monday to talk about migration and refugee issues, so naturally the subject of Donald Trump came up. When Jolie was first asked about the Donald, she "closed her eyes and shook her head in disapproval," according to CNN, which is really all she needed to say. But when pressed on the presumptive GOP nominee and his stance on temporarily banning Muslims from entering the U.S., she felt compelled to elaborate. "To me, America is built on people from around the world coming together for freedoms, especially the freedom of religion," she said. "So it's hard to hear this coming from someone who is pressing to be an American president." Jolie has yet to endorse a presidential candidate, but at least we know who she's not endorsing.

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Ralph Fiennes goes wild

The acclaimed actor defends the hellraiser he plays in "A Bigger Splash."

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Ralph Fiennes can play introspective, but he's just as masterful when he's the opposite. You can see the outgoing, sometimes maniacal side of Fiennes in films like "In Bruges" and "The Grand Budapest Hotel." And you can see it in "A Bigger Splash," the latest from "I Am Love" filmmaker Luca Guadagnino. Fiennes plays Harry, a legendary music producer who's never entered his chill middle-age period. This enrages an old flame, Tilda Swinton's rock star Marianne Lane, who's trying to enjoy a quiet vacation when Harry shows up, with his newly discovered young daughter (Dakota Johnson).

Harry's more thoughtful than he lets on

"He's not always going crazy," Fiennes says. "There are moments when he's watching people. He's quite observant. He's quite sensitive, actually. He sees everyone. For all his noise and verbosity, he sees people. He picks up on people quite quickly."

He's also great at his job

"I've always felt he's a very good producer, despite all the party animal antics you see. He's really good at putting music together and guiding musical artists," he explains. Fiennes didn't have to go far for research: His brother Magnus is a seasoned pro in the music business. "My brother is a great producer. Socially, he's very engaging and fun, but actually he's very focused in his work. He's very meticulous."

Harry's deep bond with Marianne

"The way I imagined his history with Marianne was that a lot of her best recordings and work were formed by Harry. That underpinned their relationship. I think she was at her best as a gifted performer and singer when he helped shape her. But he couldn't stop his hedonistic lifestyle and went off the rails. She couldn't handle it," Fiennes says.

A prisoner of his own freedom

"He's a man who gives himself permission always to take what he wants," Fiennes explains. "He's in that sense selfish, I suppose. But he's existentially very free. He probably told himself he didn't want to be hemmed in by the obligations or the compromises of relationships. Now he's realizing he's lost something."

Ralph Fiennes plays a hedonistic music producer who ruins the vacation of old friends in "A Bigger Splash," now in theaters. FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Harry's relationship with Penelope, his daughter

"He loves how cool she is, how independent. He's intrigued by her. Harry's the sort of guy who will feel someone's energy quite quickly, and he's learned to not be over-attentive to Penelope," says Fiennes. "He sees her as a sexual young creature, and part of him is intrigued by that. But I don't think he's trying to sleep with her or anything like that. He's learning who she is, this new creature that is his daughter. He's never experienced her as a child or as a baby. I would imagine that's quite a weird one, if someone says, 'Here's your daughter as the result of a fling from long ago,' and this potent young woman enters the room. It's probably a bit of a mindf—. I think Harry's dealing with it quite well."

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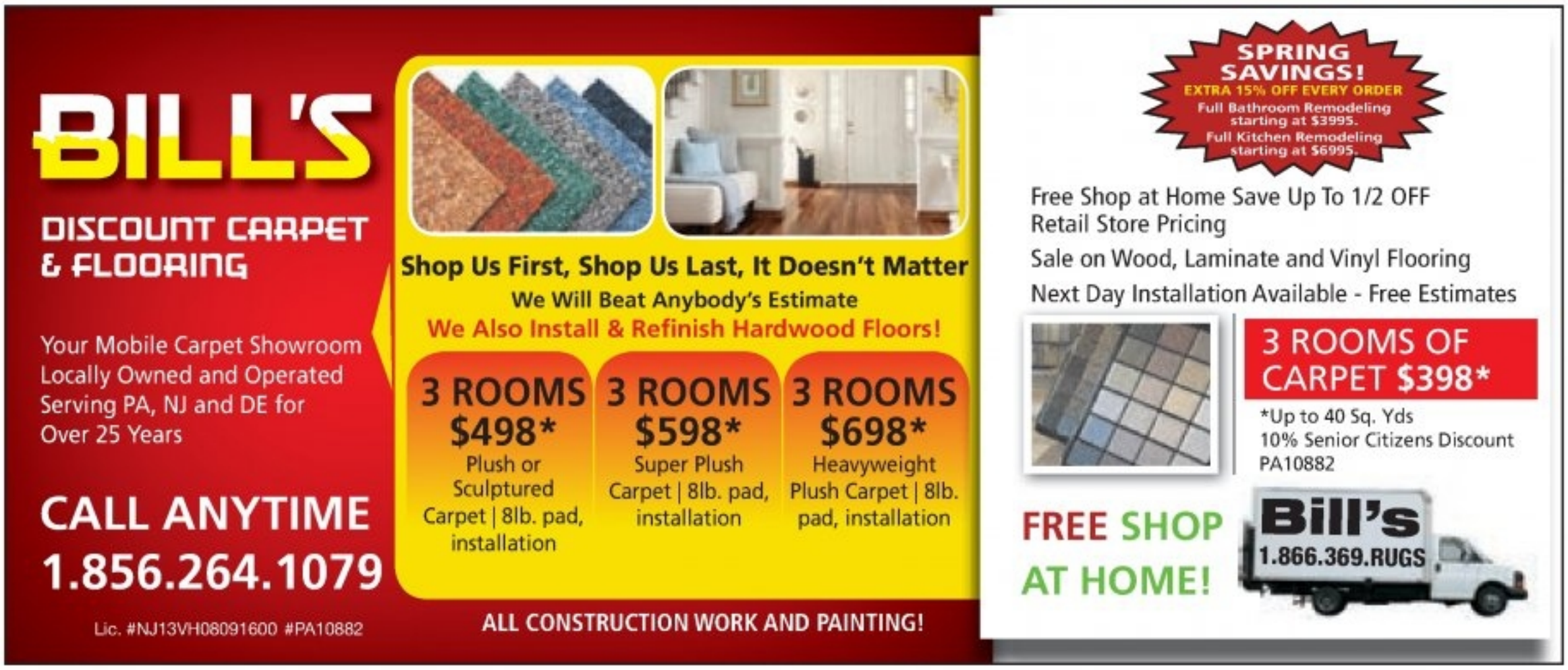
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'Washed Out,' not washed up

Rooney's infectious sunny Cali-pop rock was perfect timed with the age of pop culture's West Coast obsession in the early 2000s. Frontman Robert Schwartzman — who comes from the illustrious Coppola bloodline, along with brother Jason — decided to put the band on hiatus following the 2010 release of "Eureka," after a string of hits, including "I'm Shakin'" and "When Did Your Heart Go Missing?"

"I wasn't feeling inspired or excited. I knew I needed to take a break," Schwartzman says. "[For 'Washed Away'], I started getting super-fired-up again about the idea of touring and putting the new album out. Rooney is about songs and lyrics and music, not about that other stuff."

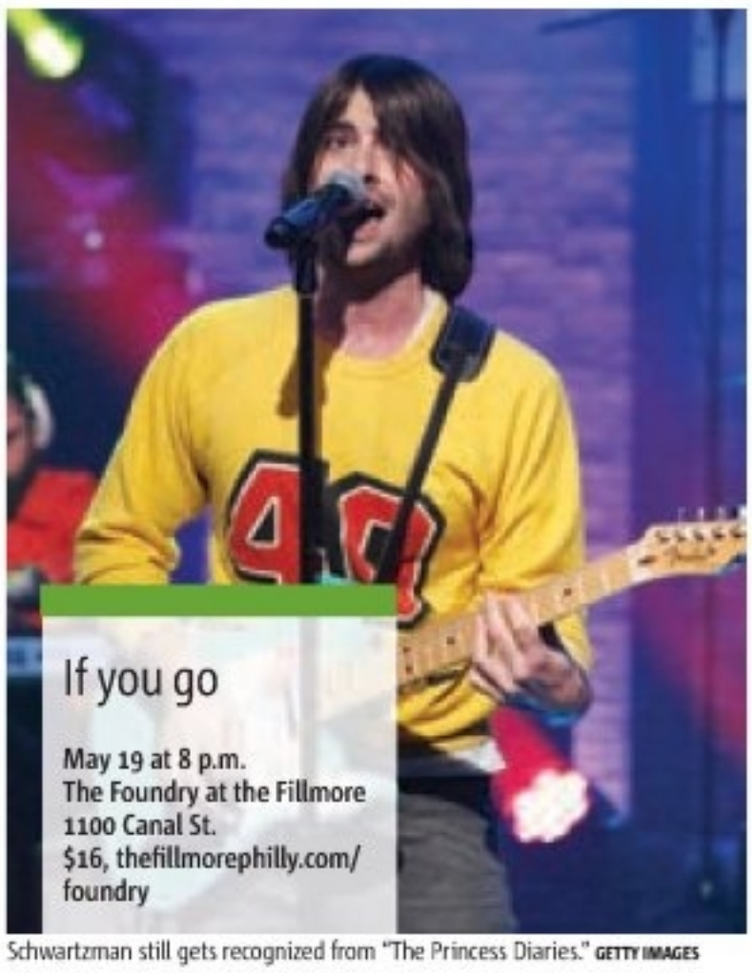
By "other stuff" he means a meticulously calculated returned. Schwartzman took a break from Rooney to pursue other interests like "Dreamland." Despite Coppola legacy (he scored cousin Gia's "Palo Alto" in 2013), Schwartzman has always been adamant in identifying himself as a musician first, but he says swapping industries has allowed him to see music from a new point of view.

"['Dreamland'] is my first time directing something and it's a new world," he says, "I find it really interesting because there's an innocence when you start something without knowing it really well. At the end of the day, there are parallels in film and music."

Now a full-length Rooney return, "Washed Away," released earlier this month, and a subsequent tour are underway, kicking off just as Schwartzman finished promoting "Dreamland" at the Tribeca Film Festival. The indie dramedy also caused the singer-songwriter to look at the layers of his album with the same meticulous detail a film requires.

"Music is layers of arrangements, but a movie is incredible because you're mixing the sound effects, like birds tweeting and crickets chirping, when the dialogue should get louder or softer," Schwartzman explains. "Then there's the way it looks. Do you boost the yellows? Or the red? Is it too dark or underexposed? There are all of these wonderful things that are so layered [in a movie]. It's an album times so many, because you have to be aware of many many things. It made me go back to my album and say, 'How do we dial it in and make sure everything is where we want it to be?'"

RACHEL RACZKA



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Schwartzman still gets recognized from "The Princess Diaries." GETTY IMAGES

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Getting 'Hot, Sassy and Sweet' with Drew Nugent

The Philly jazz musician gears up for the release of his new album at Vesper on May 18.

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Drew Nugent is a Philly musician who is throwin' back — way back — to the earliest days of jazz with his band Drew Nugent and the Midnight Society. Known for his high energy performances, where he doubles on trumpet and keys, his virtuosity and charisma are transfixing. This Wednesday, Nugent celebrates the release of his latest album, "Hot, Sassy and Sweet" at Vesper in Center City.

When you're out and about, you're always dressed to the nines. Do you ever break from suits on the weekend?
About five years ago I realized I have nothing but suits! So why even wear jeans and a T-shirt unless I'm washing the car or doing yard work? (Laughs) As long as I have it my way, you'll never see me out of one. I grew up with a father that had a great wardrobe of suit and ties, and from a young age I decided when I go out into the world, I wanted to be in a suit like him.

That's really sweet. Now riffing on that theme, what makes the new album "hot, sassy and sweet?"
So the whole idea behind "hot jazz" was that the temperature of the rooms would get hot from the music. A/C was nonexistent and the emotional power of the music combined with the heavy syncopation really fired people up. The "sweet" music of that time was more like foxtrots and slower ballads. More romantic.

So what time period are we talking here?
Hot jazz came into popularity in the late teens at the death of ragtime and the beginning of World War I. It stayed popular through 1920s until the mid-'30s when the swing era took over. It's the purest form of jazz. The earliest form of jazz. When we think of jazz today, artists that came later in its history have become the staples, like Miles and Ella and Dizzy, and sadly, they overshadow the hot jazz artists.

Who are some of your favorites from the earlier days of jazz?
That's tough! I've gotta keep myself to bullet points here. (Laughs) Bix Beiderbecke was one of the best trumpeters, pianists and composers to have ever lived. He died at 27 from alcoholism. I was really taken by the piano stylings of Earl Hines. Love Fats Waller. Every horn player's gotta know Jabbo Smith.

You cover a lot of these artists on the album but then you mentioned getting a bit "naughty" with it. Naughty in what way?
I owe Charlie and Tommy, the guys behind JIUP International Records, with breaking me out of my safety zone. Some of the songs are very suggestive. For instance, there's one that's not on the album called "My Girl's Pussy" — but it's about her cat!

So aside from dressing the part of a 1920s jazz artist, you also have all these cool antique instruments. Where do you find them?
It depends. I found "Baby" — I'm a kook, I name all of my instruments! Well actually, my dad and sister found her at a flea market in Litiz, PA. She was in bad shape — tons of bends and dents in the frame — and I told my dad to get her for $50 because she needed so much work. But then she ended up being the flagship of the fleet. But it depends, sometimes I find gems on Craigslist and Ebay. Not as romantic. (Laughs)

So what are you drinking on Wednesday to celebrate the new record?
I'm a gin martini kind of guy.

For more on Drew Nugent and The Midnight Society, visit drewnugent.org.

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As kids crave more quiet time, meditation goes mainstream

Activities to promote focus, emotional wellness and mindfulness are becoming increasingly common in schools.

ALIZAH SALARIO
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Meditation can have a positive effect on concentration and focus throughout the day. ISTOCK

When former public school teacher Dave Beal introduced meditation to his students, he saw dramatic changes in his classroom.

"Test anxiety was the No. 1 reason students underperform. So I saw a lot of improvement that way," says Beal. "You know, particularly the stereotype of the fidgety boy who can't sit still, when they start to learn breathing techniques and [start] connecting with their body and quieting their mind, they're just able to maintain a higher level of concentration throughout the day."

The experience prompted Beal to switch gears. He's now an education coordinator at Brain Education, a company that partners with school districts around the country and leads workshops that give students and teachers activities to promote focus, emotional wellness and mindfulness.

Brain Education takes a unique approach to mindfulness: In order to slow down, students first speed up with dynamic partner games that get them moving. Only then are they ready to focus on their breath and energy.

"Kids are very visual and very imaginative, so we have what we call the 'energy-ball visualization.' They imagine they're creating a ball of energy with their hands, so it gives them something very tangible to focus on," says Beal, who notes that helping students tune into their physical sensations is part of how instructors facilitate the process.

"Once they really have a little glimmer of a feeling of inner peace, once they feel that first sensation, then that motivates them to keep going. Then, after those first couple of times, it just becomes really automatic," says Beal.

The goal of mindfulness is twofold, says Beal: To have students empty their minds of their busy thoughts, and then focus on their goals.

"I think, kids and adults alike, we actually crave this time," says Beal. "They're kind of hungry for this."

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Should your kids be taking probiotics?

Find out what the latest research has to say.

EMILY LAURENCE
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The health community has been buzzing about the importance of probiotics for a while, and new studies confirming the health benefits of this good bacteria seem to make the news every week. Millions of adults pop a probiotic pill daily to do everything from keep their digestive system on track to ward off liver cancer.

But what about kids? Do they need a supplement, too? For Julie Smolyansky, the CEO of Lifeway Foods, it's a resounding yes. Smolyansky released a probiotic for kids, ProBugs, in 2014 based on the scientific findings that started emerging — and continue to emerge. We talk to her about the benefits of probiotics for kids and why their diets might not be enough.

It's good for the brain

Smolyansky tells us that there's a huge mind-body connection when it comes to probiotics, and kids are no exception.

"The gut is the second organ of the body filled with the most neurons, after the brain, and the brain and gut are constantly sending messages to each other," she says. That means feelings like anxiety, stress and depression can affect your digestive system. A new study published in the Pediatric Research journal found that this brain-body connection could help prevent ADHD and autism.

The study followed 75 infants for 13 years. Some took probiotics as infants and children, some took a placebo. At age 13, 17 percent of the children in the placebo group were diagnosed with ADHD or autism. As for the probiotic group: zero.

Gives a weak immune system a boost

It's no shocker that kids get sick all the time, and Smolyansky tells us that an unfortunate side effect of taking antibiotics is that they kill off the good bacteria in the gut, too.

"Probiotics can help counter that, but also, it helps give them a stronger immune system so they don't get sick [as much] in the first place," she says. "New research is showing how important it is to build an immune system early on in life. Baby formulas have actually started including probiotics," she says, adding that it's naturally in breast milk.

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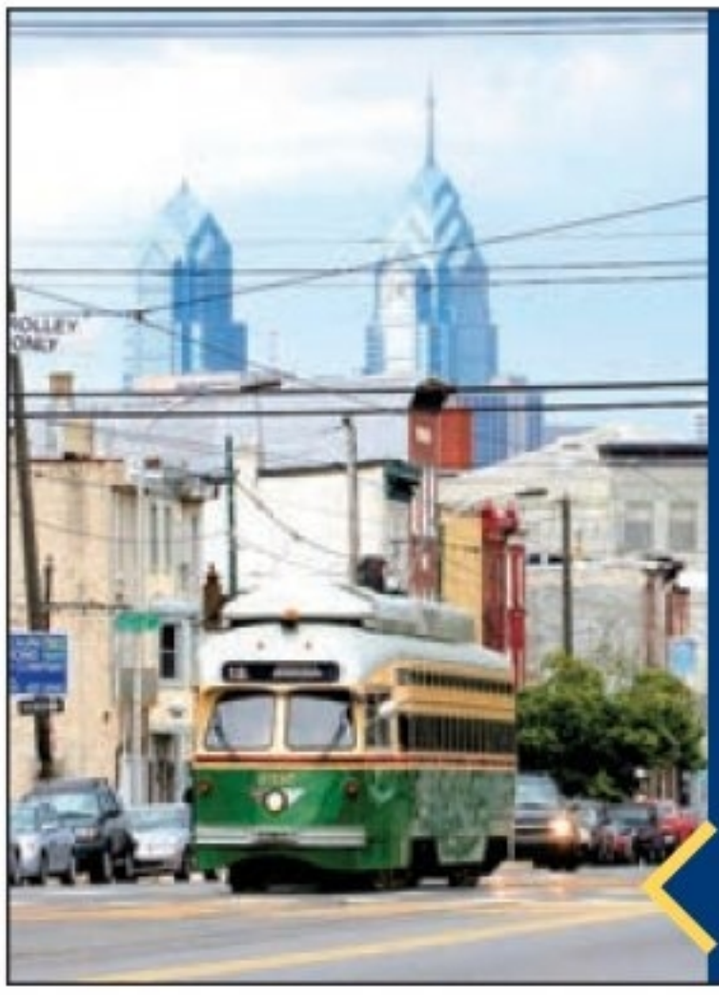

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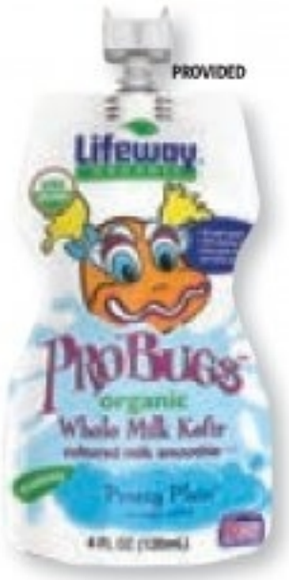
How to get your kids to take them

Most kids aren't big sauerkraut and kimchi fans, but yogurt is a great staple to add to your kids' diet. And there's also of course Smolyansky's on-the-go snack ProBugs, which comes in kid-friendly flavors like creamsicle and strawberry-banana. Probiotic brand Culturelle also sells packets that can be mixed in with kids' foods, so resourceful parents can sneak them into their food. However, if your kids consume 'em, it will do their little bodies good.



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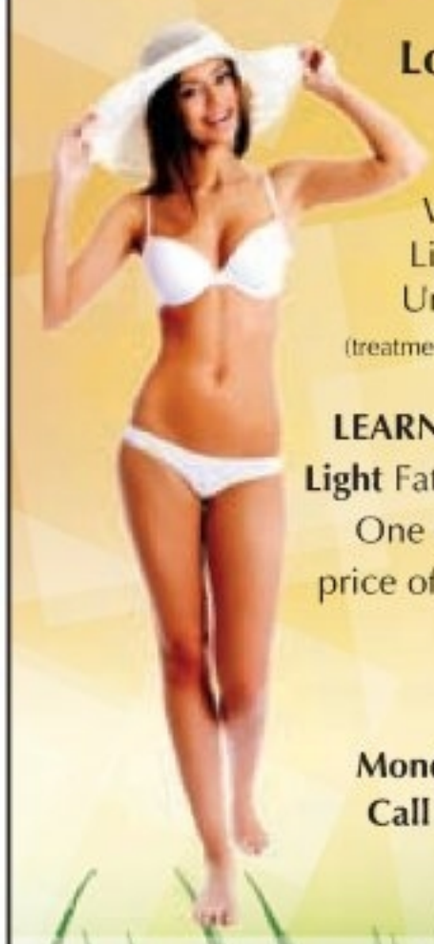

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ON LOTTERY NIGHT, WE CAN ALL BE 76ERS FANS AGAIN

GLEN MACNOW

OPINION

Glen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades. @realglenmacnow

There is no more grating fan base than the clinging coterie of Sam Hinkie true believers.

Tuesday, of course, is the NBA lottery pull. The Sixers, through all of Hinkie's machinations over the last three years, have about a 27 percent chance of getting the top pick. They also will get the Lakers pick if it falls out of the top three. It could be a franchise-altering night.

I disliked Hinkie's three-season tank-a-thon, considering it an affront to paying fans, as well as plain old ethics. I was glad when the NBA stepped in this season and ordered ownership to stop making a mockery of a once-proud franchise. I shed no tears reading Sam's meandering resignation manifesto.

So now, with Hinkie gone, I've pulled my 13-star Sixers hat from the closet. Along with thousands of like-minded fans, I feel safe returning to the team I rooted for, from Julius Erving through Charles Barkley and Allen Iverson. Except, we are being told, we are not allowed back.

"Don't think we won't call your ass out when you jump on the bandwagon," a Hinkie backer tweeted me Sunday after I posted excitement about the lottery. He wasn't the only one. The old GM may be gone, but his loyalists still think they have a proprietary right to dismiss the non-believers.

Sorry, guys. It's not your team. It's ours — as in all fans.

Hey, I'll agree with the obvious — that 10-72 put the Sixers in this prime draft position. Hinkie succeeded in his mission of creating the losingest NBA team in 43 years. That doesn't mean the greater universe of fans has to retroactively support the immorality of that — even if the payoff for ineptitude is about to arrive in early draft picks.

It also doesn't mean that any fan has priority status if and when the Sixers return to decency or — dare we hope — greatness. We can all find it fun to cheer for our team again — unless some die-hards' vision of the future remains a near-empty building occupied only by card-carrying members of the now-defunct tanking brigade.

So as the lottery approaches, I'm excited. There's some fatalistic fear that through luck or a rigged system, the Lakers will emerge with the top prize. I'd love to dismiss that suspicion, but I can't. And there's legitimate debate about whom the 76ers should grab if they do garner the No. 1 pick: Ben Simmons or Brandon Ingram? And where does a shooter like Buddy Hield fit in?

So much rests on unanswered questions. Will Joel Embiid be able to play? Will Dario Saric really come over? I don't know, but I am sure of this: It's safe to start enjoying the Sixers again. For me and for thousands of other conscientious objectors.

The door has reopened, everyone. We've got a basketball team again.

Many would argue that Brandon Ingram is the top prize in the NBA draft. GETTY IMAGES

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Phillies say Joseph is here to stay

Phillies general manager Matt Klentak said prior to Friday's series opener with Cincinnati that Tommy Joseph is here to stay because the offense is "looking for an offensive jolt."

While Joseph didn't provide any sparks in his debut — going 0-for-2 with a walk and a run — he believes he can provide a big bat to a lineup in dire need of offensive production.

Following Friday's contest, Joseph wasn't seen around the locker room. That's because he remained out on the field with a few friends and family that were able to catch his major league debut. Joseph stayed out there for a good 20 minutes before coming back inside to see only a few reporters still hanging around.

Before crossing over the locker room threshold, Joseph's first words to a question thrown his way were "that was pretty darn cool."

"I think I did a pretty good job of staying in the moment," Joseph said. "I'll remember every part of this day. That was one thing I wanted to make sure happened, that I kind of took it slow."

After getting his "feet wet" — as manager Pete Mackanin described it — Joseph's usage should start to come to the forefront. He's believed to have a role similar to what Darin Ruf's was, serving as relief to Ryan Howard when a left-hander is on the mound.

Joseph arrives in Philadelphia after batting .347 with six homers and 17 RBIs in 27 games with Lehigh Valley. With hitting like that, it would've been hard to keep him at Triple-A for much longer. The Phillies are hoping that will translate at the highest level because, quite frankly, they need it to.

"We're not blind to the fact that our overall run differential this year is negative," Klentak said.

Joseph is excited for the opportunity to contribute to the offense right away. He's been watching the Phillies all season when his schedule at Lehigh Valley allowed him to. He knows that the "pitching and defense" have been the reason for this team's success. He wants to add hitting to that list and make the Phillies an all-around triple threat of a team.

It'll be small steps, though. Joseph knows this and so do the players. That being said, the 24-year-old catcher-turned-first baseman is soaking this whole experience in.

"It's great to not just take a tour of this clubhouse but to actually be in it and have my own locker," Joseph said.

He doesn't plan on having that locker vacated anytime soon.

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Can Tommy Joseph be a long-term solution for the Phils' at first base? GETTY IMAGES

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ESETT is a research study designed to try to save and improve the lives of people who experience established status epilepticus (ESE). Emergency department care of patients with a long-lasting seizure in the US is not the same everywhere. Doctors use their judgement, but what treatment will work best is not known. This study plans to look at three commonly used medicines given in the emergency departments for ESE: fosphenytoin (fPHT), valproic (VPA), and levetiracetam (LVT) to learn which treatment is most effective at stopping a seizure quickly.

Normally, researchers get permission before a person can be included in a study. A person having a seizure will not be able to give consent. Since a seizure that will not stop on its own must be treated quickly, there will not be enough time to locate and talk to the person's legal representative about the study, so the person will be enrolled in the study without his/her legal representative's consent. This is called "Exception from Informed Consent" (EFIC).

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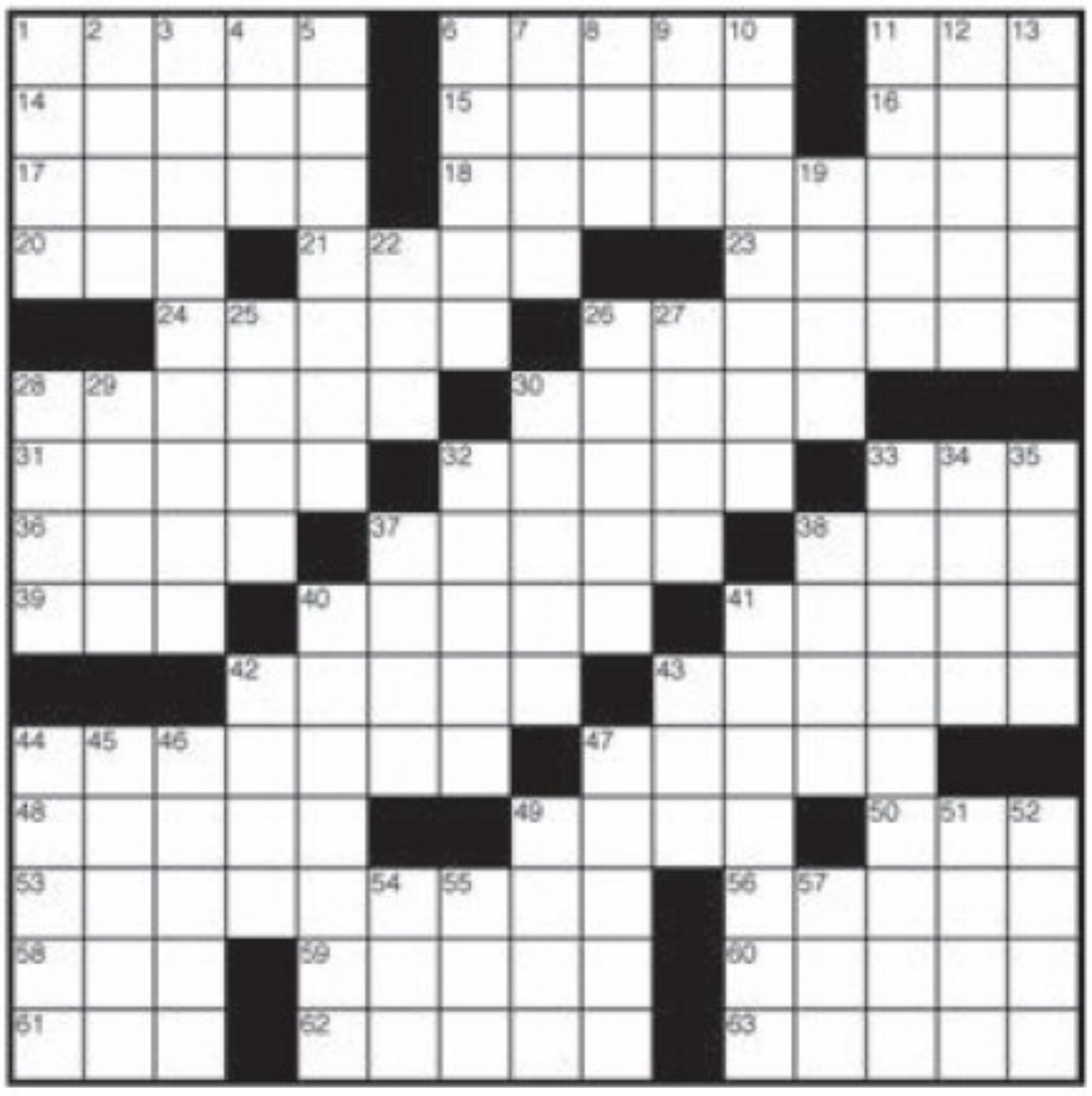

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36 Gosh darn!
37 Tied
38 Paddy crop
39 Cartoon shriek
40 Breakfast strip
41 — incognita
42 Warm jacket
43 Traffic mishap
44 Tacks on
47 I thought — never leave!
48 Kind of buffet
49 Postpone action
50 Lab denizen
53 Mexican sandals
56 Acid in proteins
58 Inventor — Whitney
59 Be my —!
60 Gen. Powell
61 — Francisco
62 Returnable bottle
63 Green shade

Down

1 Unisex garment
2 Jai —
3 Gravel supplier (2 wds.)
4 Shoguns' capital
5 Got set
6 Fists, slangily
7 No future — —
8 Rear, to Popeye
9 Found a perch
10 Salon employee
11 Phase
12 Buzzing about
13 Gnats and fleas
19 Yield
22 Wabash loc.
25 Half a fortnight
26 In leaf
27 More than misled
28 Joint problem
29 Tickled-pink feeling
30 Bauxite giant
32 Grocery containers
33 Dorm rouser (2 wds.)
34 Neutral shade
35 Lowest high tide
37 Shortening
38 Be certain of
40 First-aid item
41 Man's accessory (2 wds.)
42 Late summer fruit
43 Letter before chi
44 Hearth debris
45 Zahn or Abdul
46 Flat expanse
47 Mouth-watering
49 Left, on a map
51 Indigo dye
52 Upscale
54 Magna — laude
55 Not square
57 Larry and Curly's partner

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easy

		6			8			1
			6	3			9	
		7			5		2	
		1	8	6			5	
		9	2		3	7		
	6			9	7	8		
	9		3			2		
	8			2	6			
3			7			4		

hard

		5		7	3			8
				2			6	9
2	8					7		
	1		5		9			
4			2		8			3
			7		4		2	
		3					8	5
9	2			5				
5			3	8		1		

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Aries A change in your financial situation looks promising. Don't let anyone speak or negotiate on your behalf. You will represent what you have to offer better than anyone.

Taurus Avoid arguments if you want to accomplish your goals. Staying focused and being open to new things will result in firm progress.

Gemini Look closely at a proposal that offers the impossible. You are better off doing your own thing and taking responsibility for the outcome.

Cancer If you offer to help someone from your past, you will establish a better, more promising relationship. Make adjustments to your timetable that give you greater freedom.

Leo Don't waste time criticizing others or complaining about the way they do things. Step up your game and take charge to ensure that you get the results you want.

Virgo Open up about the way you feel and how you want to see projects and situations develop. Taking care of children, loved ones or your personal needs should be your aim.

Libra Don't be afraid to share your emotions. The only way to resolve a festering situation is to communicate honestly. Find out where you stand, and act accordingly.

Scorpio A personal relationship will develop into something special. Make plans to share interesting experiences. Discuss alternate living arrangements or an unorthodox path.

Sagittarius Keep your communications honest and factual. If you choose to embellish instead of sticking to facts, you'll end up paying for your indiscretions.

Capricorn Consider how you currently live and how you want to live in the future. Cut corners, downsize or look for investments that will allow you more freedom. Do things differently.

Aquarius You are best off disregarding criticism or complaints. Strive to make personal changes and work to get ahead professionally. Invest in your health, skills and personal assets.

Pisces You may need to step outside your comfort zone if it will help find a solution to a problem. Don't be afraid to speak up and offer your services for a price. **EUGENIA LAST**

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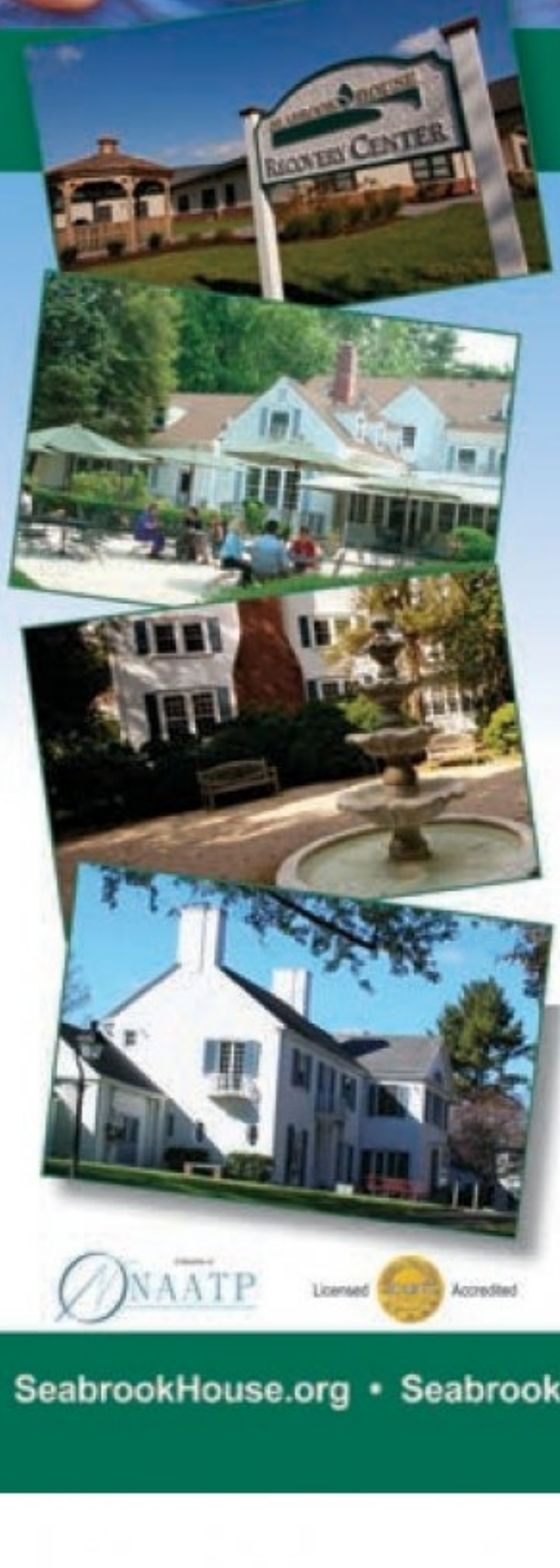

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